

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2004-339

October 25, 2004

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,  
Investigation of Central Maine Power Company's  
Stranded Cost Revenue Requirements and Rates

TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE  
ORDER NO. 9  
(Confidential Business  
Information)

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On August 16, 2004, the Industrial Energy Consumer Group ("IECG") issued its first set of Data Requests (IECG-01) to Central Maine Power Company ("CMP" or the "Company") in the above referenced proceeding. Included in this discovery request were questions regarding confidential business information, including CMP's rates of return, revenue and income planning documents, and related corporate financial goals. See, e.g., IECG-01-82 ("...provide copies of any Energy East or CMP documents which set target or goal rates [for] return on equity . . .") and IECG-01-83 ("... provide copies of any CMP reports or analyses of how the rate of return targets . . . may be achieved."). The Company is willing to submit documentation containing confidential business and proprietary information in response to these discovery requests and respectfully requests that a protective scheme be implemented for this data similar to that issued in Docket Nos. 2002-248 or 2002-151.

The Company has maintained in the past that information of this kind constitutes trade secrets that deal with the analysis, deployment and utilization of the Company's assets and management's rationale for prioritizing and deploying those assets. Release of such information to parties other than the Commission and the Public Advocate would be damaging to the interests of CMP, its employees, and its customers. Section 1311-A(1)(A) of Title 35-A of the Maine Revised Statutes grants the Commission the authority to issue protective orders to protect the interests of parties in confidential or proprietary information, trade secrets, or similar matters as provided by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26(c). The Commission has been sensitive to these concerns.

In order to expedite the provision of this information to the Commission, and subject to reconsideration in light of arguments by any intervenors, the Examiner concludes that the limited and revocable protection requested by CMP is warranted under 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1311-A and Rule 26(c) of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. The granting of this order shall not create a presumption or otherwise alter the applicable burden of proof should a party or the Commission seek to modify the terms of this Order or should a party or the Commission on its own motion challenge the Company's designation of material as "Designated Confidential Material" to be protected under the terms of this order. In granting this Protective Order, the Examiner would note that this order is intended to apply to internally generated revenue projections and rate of return calculations and targets and not to actual financial results which are generally available in publicly available reports or documents. *See, Central Maine Power Company, Annual Price change Pursuant to the Alternative Rate Plan (Post*

*Merger*), Docket No. 2004-167, Ruling on Protective Status (May 29, 2004). Any party at any time can move for a finding that material subject to protection should no longer be so treated or that such other party be provided access to said information pursuant to protective provisions. Unless such a motion is granted, however, use of the allegedly confidential materials continues to be restricted by the terms of this Protective Order No. 9.

Accordingly, it is

#### **O R D E R E D**

1. That confidential business information, including CMP's projected rates of return revenue projections and targets income planning documents, and related corporate financial goals, shall be considered "Designated Business Confidential Information" for purposes of this Order and, until such time as this Order is modified, access to Designated Confidential Information shall be limited as described in Paragraph 4 below.
2. That all Designated Confidential Information shall, unless removed from the coverage of this Order as provided in Paragraph 3 below, be and remain confidential. Designated Confidential Information shall not be disclosed for any purpose other than the purposes of this proceeding, and then solely in accordance with this Order. No person to whom access to Designated Confidential Information is accorded pursuant to Paragraph 4 of this Order shall disclose or reveal, directly or indirectly, the content of the Designated Confidential Information to others, except as provided in Paragraph 4.
3. That the parties to whom Designated Confidential Information is furnished may challenge designation of any documents or other information as confidential by motion to the Commission and upon reasonable prior notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing. Upon the entry of a final unappealed decision granting such a motion, the provisions and restrictions of this Order shall cease to bind any party or other person with respect to the documents or information that the Order granting the motion shall have expressly and clearly removed from the coverage of this Order.
4. That, until this Order is modified, access to Designated Confidential Information shall be limited to (i) Commission members, members of the Commission Staff and their consultants; (ii) the Public Advocate, counsel, and consultants; (iii) a stenographer or reporter recording any hearing in connection with this proceeding; (iv) counsel for or any other representative of CMP; and (v) counsel for all parties, provided that such counsel shall agree to use the Designated Confidential Information solely for purposes of this proceeding and not disclose the information to any other person and, provided further, the attorney does not have "a personal and substantial financial interest that could be benefited by access to the

information to the detriment of the party that provided the information.” 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1311-A(1)(D)(2).

5. That all materials claimed by CMP to be Designated Confidential Information under the terms of this Order shall be clearly marked “Confidential and Privileged” by CMP. In the case of documents, each page of any such document shall be stamped “Confidential and Privileged” in bold lettering in the upper right hand corner of each page including the cover letter. Any document or portion thereof not clearly and conspicuously marked “Confidential and Privileged” in bold lettering shall not be protected under the terms of this Order. Faxed materials should be marked as any other document. With regard to other media, diskettes should be marked “Confidential and Privileged” on the outside and, to the extent possible, each file on the diskette should be similarly identified. Any person or party subject to the terms of this Order who receives unmarked documents or materials which he/she believes CMP intended to be protected by the terms of this Order, and that would have been protected if marked in accordance with this Paragraph, shall make a good faith effort to notify CMP of this fact and to avoid use of such documents or materials in a manner inconsistent with protection of such material under this Order.
6. That no copies of Designated Confidential Information furnished by CMP shall be circulated to persons other than those persons who are authorized under Paragraph 4 of this Order to obtain Designated Confidential Information. Documents offered in evidence may be copied as necessary for that purpose. Persons authorized under Paragraph 4 hereof also may take such notes as may be necessary solely for the purposes of this proceeding. Those notes shall also be treated as Designated Confidential Information.
7. That the restrictions upon, and obligations accruing to, persons who become subject to this Order shall not apply to any Designated Confidential Information submitted in accordance with Paragraph 1 of this Order if the Commission rules, after reasonable notice and hearing, that the Designated Confidential Information was publicly known at the time it was furnished or has since become publicly known through no fault of the receiving party.
8. That where reference to Designated Confidential Information is required in pleadings, briefs, other legal documents, or argument, that reference shall be by citation of title or exhibit number only or by some other non-confidential description to the extent possible. In those circumstances, counsel shall make every reasonable effort to preserve the confidentiality of material in the sealed record. If counsel shall include Designated Confidential Information in pleadings, briefs, other legal documents, or arguments, that portion of the documents or that portion of the transcript of the argument containing Designated Confidential Information shall be maintained under seal.

9. That the Commission may draw upon all Designated Confidential Information in the record in the deliberation of any decision or order that it may issue, but the Commission will avoid the reproduction in its decision of any Designated Confidential Information.
10. That should any appeal of, or other challenge to, the Commission's decision in this proceeding be taken, any portions of the record that have been sealed in accordance with Paragraph 8 above shall be forwarded to the courts of this State in accordance with applicable law and procedures, but under seal and so designated in writing for the information of the court.
11. That this Order does not preclude any party from (a) objecting under the Maine Rules of Evidence to the admissibility of any Designated Confidential Information produced by Central Maine Power Company or (b) objecting, on any substantive or procedural ground, to any subsequent data request or other request for information.
12. That CMP may, at its option, provide to each person (other than the Commissioners or Commission Staff) having access to Designated Confidential Information a copy of this Order and require each person to agree in writing to the terms hereof prior to obtaining access to the Designated Confidential Information.
13. That Designated Confidential Information furnished by CMP pursuant to this Order and made part of the record in any proceeding before the Commission shall remain in the possession of the Commission, under seal, and subject to the protective requirements of this Order, until this Commission or its authorized presiding officer shall otherwise order.
14. That this Order may be modified on motion of any party or on the Commission's own motion upon reasonable prior notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing.
15. That within forty-five (45) days after the Commission reaches a final unappealable decision in this proceeding, copies of Designated Confidential Information and documents, notes and other materials containing or reflecting, directly or indirectly, the Designated Confidential Information, that are in the possession of parties to whom the Designated Confidential Information has been made available shall destroy all documents, notes and other materials containing or reflecting, directly or indirectly, the Designated Confidential Information. Audio, video or other such magnetically recorded materials shall be electronically erased before disposal. Documents shall be shredded.
16. That, notwithstanding the requirements of Paragraph 15 above, copies of Designated Confidential Information and documents, notes and other materials that are in the possession of Commission members, counsel or employees of the

Commission may be retained by those persons for the purpose of performing those persons' duties and obligations. If retained, the Designated Confidential Information shall be subject to this Protective Order or to a protective order issued in another proceeding in which the Designated Confidential Information is used. If a Commission member, counsel or employee of the Commission does not retain the Designated Confidential Information, that person shall destroy it as provided in Paragraph 15 above.

17. That, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, this Order expires one year after the issuance of the order concluding this proceeding.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2004

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

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Charles Cohen